

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 21-25, 28-32 and 35-45 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended. Claims 4, 5, 11, 13-20, 33 and 34 are canceled. Claim 35-35 have been added; however, no additional claims fees are required.

Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 102

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kilner, United States Patent Number 5,649,089, (hereinafter, Kilner).

Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 103

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kilner, United States Patent Number 5,649,089, (hereinafter, Kilner) in view of Yanai et al., United States Patent Number 5,742,792 (Yanai).

Claims 21-24, 26, 28 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kilner, United States Patent Number 5,649,089, (hereinafter, Kilner) in view of Howard et al., United States Patent Number 6,629,198 (Howard).

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kilner, United States Patent Number 5,649,089, (hereinafter, Kilner) in view of Howard et al., United States Patent Number 6,629,198 (Howard) and further in view of Yanai et al., United States Patent Number 5,742,792 (Yanai).

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office stated claims 5, 7, 25 and 27 were objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


Applicant respectfully traverses each rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. However, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5. Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 27. New claims 35 and 40 include the limitations of former claims 1, 7 and 21, 25 respectively. Consequently, claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 21-25, 28-32 and 35-45 are believed allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the forgoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

DATED: May 22, 2006

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